

SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

Advisory Board Agenda

15000 Arnold Drive

Eldridge, CA 95431

Advisory Board Minutes 10-18-06

Present: Selina Glater – Chairperson; Barbara Turner (board member), George Ellman, (board member)

Guests: Jim Rogers, Executive Director; Judith Bjorndal M.D., Medical Director; Dawn Percy, Acting Clinical Director; Theresa Billeci, Administrative Services Director; Teresa Murphy, Assistant Administrative Services Director; Markley Sutton PhD, Chief Psychologist; JoAnn Benham, RN., Director of Nursing Services; Cheryl Crose (Santa Clara Mental Health Board)

Absent: Dave Hoshiwara, Vice Chairperson, Carin Lawrence (board member)

1. Minutes from last meeting approved and signed.

2. FACILITY UPDATES:

- **Jim Rogers**, Executive Director, reported:
 - Many changes have occurred on the Executive Team since the Advisory Board met last October, and SDC has had a large turnover in leadership roles facility-wide, due primarily to retirements.
 - SDC management is in the process of long-term planning for the future of the facility and is working on the development of a 7-year plan.
 - The Clinical Management Team is working with the Regional Centers and others to improve the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process.
 - SDC ended last fiscal year “in the black” and will be watching expenditures very closely this year to do the same.
 - SDC had four licensing surveys in the last nine months. We did well, but we do have some plans of correction that we are implementing.
- **Dawn Percy**, Acting Clinical Director, reported:
 - In the clinical arena there have also been lots of staff changes. Recently there have been four new appointments to Unit Supervisor, they were promotions of staff that are already familiar with the processes and procedures here.
 - We continue to work on the IPP process. Several subcommittees continue to meet on various aspects of the process and how to improve it. Committee memberships include many stakeholders; the Regional Centers are involved and there are two parents on the committees. The parents and PHA are being informed as we try to move quickly without compromising the integrity of the process and rollout the recommended changes.

- Census: 725 (as of 10/13/06)

From 7/1/06 to present:

Admissions:	3
Transfers in:	2
Placements:	1
Transfers out:	0
Deaths:	10

- **Judith Bjorndal, MD**, Medical Director, reported:
 - SDC has a full supply of flu vaccines. All the clients will be vaccinated (with a few exceptions if contraindicated), and all staff are encouraged to get them too in order to protect from staff spreading the flu to the clients.
 - There has also been some turnover in the medical staff due to retirements. SDC expects two new doctors to start on Nov. 1st. Many consultants come in to provide clinics and we are attracting more. They are terrific doctors and it is a good opportunity for SDC to communicate with the medical community.
 - It is very difficult to recruit for the pharmacy. We've recently hired one pharmacist and we have a few that work 1 day/week.
 - We do not have a radiologist, so we send films to Sonoma Valley Hospital. We are looking at transitioning to digital.

Salina asked if there are incentives to bring staff in, Jim Rogers stated that recruitment and retention is a #1 issue here. There have been modest salary adjustments through collective bargaining, but it is not enough to make much difference.

- **Lisa Storment- Rosen**, Standards Compliance Coordinator, Acting Director Quality Assurance, reported:
 - Quality Assurance interacts with licensing agencies that are here weekly and sometimes daily. They open investigations on issues we self-report. We self-report a lot of scratches and bruises and they investigate.
 - We just submitted the Plan of Correction for the Nursing Facility (NF) survey we had recently.
 - We currently have 20 Individual Program Coordinators (IPC) and they are very difficult to recruit.
- **Markley Sutton, PhD.**, Senior Supervisory Psychologist reported:
 - Sonoma Developmental Center usually has 22 or 23 psychologists, but currently has only 16. We are in the process of interviewing, but it is difficult to attract qualified psychologists. There are four other facilities within an hour, so we were approved for a Hiring Above Minimum (HAM) salary increase but it is still difficult to retain the ones we are able to hire.
 - We are doing a functional analysis training using statewide approach to the training. and expect the Department of Justice to visit another Developmental center sometime in the next year.

- **JoAnn Benham, R.N.**, Director of Nursing Services reported:
 - Sonoma Developmental Center currently employs about 120 registered nurses. Some were recently lost to the Department of Mental Health and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation due to raises given in those departments. If those departments get another raise, more nurses will transfer.
 - There is a compaction issue regarding nursing salaries. It is difficult to hire into supervisory positions because managers and supervisors make less after the rank and file Recruitment and Retention bonuses are tacked on.
 - We are working on developing a palliative care committee. SDC contracts with Hospice, but we need to increase care with long-term palliative care needs. We hope to have strong palliative care throughout the facility.
 - We are also very involved with the Sonoma County Disaster Preparedness Committee. We've done training here for the Medical Reserve Corps and have come to the forefront of participation with the County, which has helped with community awareness of SDC.

- **Theresa Billeci**, Administrative Services Director, reported:
 - Administrative Services supports what the others have said in regard to recruitment issues. We have also had some turnover; we recently promoted a Fiscal Officer, Chief of Plant Operations, Director of Human Resources, and are in the process of hiring a Director of Dietetics. There are challenges with recruitment and retention because we can't pay union wages in the trades and skilled labor.
 - The budget almost zeroed-out last year. We were able to purchase some computers and vehicles. The Information Technology Department set up an electronic bulletin board to assist with in-house communications.
 - Human Resources is working with DDS Headquarters on the 21st Century Project to automate personnel transactions and the whole system including background checks.
 - We are also working on repairs from storm damages we suffered last winter. We are working with PG&E on gas pipes and our water diversion sites suffered devastating damage but repair is underway. Currently they are working on the site that was easiest to reach. The repair will cost about \$985,000. The other site was completely wiped out and the Department of General Services is developing a plan for repair. Partial reimbursement from FEMA is anticipated.

Selina asked about the impact of the damages. Theresa explained that with no repairs to the water collection system, the facility would potentially run out of useable water by October or November of next year. With the one site repaired, we will still need to conserve water.

3. **Glen Ellen Historical Society Report** No Report

4. Barbara Turner PHA Report-

The Parent Hospital Association will soon be electing a new board. The annual fundraiser last March was very successful and the committee is starting to plan for the next one.

5. Board members' discussion:

The members agreed to continue with quarterly meetings. Meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10a.m. to noon in the PAB conference room at Sonoma Developmental Center. The schedule for 2007 will be as follows:

January 17, 2007
July 18, 2007

April 18, 2007
October 17, 2007

Those present discussed the need to submit application forms for renewing their memberships on the Board. Selina suggested that all applications be submitted to the Governor's office by January 15, 2007. The board agreed they should be more open to the local community and discussed the need to recruit new members and to encourage more participation. It would be nice if more locals would join.

Meeting Adjourned.